

cises a marked influence on the production of diabetes. In one case the disease seems to have been produced by a fall; in reference to this mode of causation, Dr. Griesinger found, on analysis of his 225 cases, that in 20 the disease appeared to have had a traumatic origin. In these cases the disease should rather be ascribed to the general shock to the system, than to any special cerebral lesion.

The disease was found to be distributed between the sexes in the following proportions: out of 225 cases, 172 men (76.4 per cent.) and 53 women (23.5 per cent.) were affected. With regard to age, Dr. Griesinger confirms the general opinion with regard to the rarity of the diseases in childhood and in old age; the period when diabetes is most common in either sex is from 20 to 40.

In the majority of cases, tuberculosis supervenes after the disease has existed a certain time. Dr. Griesinger has also observed among diabetic patients a great tendency to inflammations, accompanied with suppurations or gangrene. A constant diminution in the animal temperature was noticed several times. Dr. Griesinger attributes this diminution to an insufficiency of nutrition. In one case the presence of sugar in the urine and in the sweat was found to alternate.

Since the interesting researches of Claude Bernard on the function of the liver, the opinion has been advanced that diabetes might depend upon hypertrophy of this organ. But this opinion is contradicted by an appeal to facts; for in only one case was the liver found to be a little increased in size, and here there had been no hepatic symptoms during life, and after death no large quantity of sugar was found in the organ. It may be stated generally, that the progress of the disease appears to afford little support to the theory which ascribes the production of diabetes principally to the liver. Dr. Griesinger seems disposed to admit that the disease is due to a derangement of the digestive functions, which itself is subordinate to a lesion of innervation. The kidneys were not found to present any marked alteration from the healthy condition. In fact, the result of the *post-mortem* examinations would lead to the belief that diabetes is rather a functional derangement, than an affection produced by a special organic disease.

In reference to treatment, Dr. Griesinger shows the good effects of alkalies, particularly of bicarbonate of soda, administered sometimes to the extent of half an ounce a day. The author has endeavoured to discover what influence other substances exert upon the progress of the disease. Acids augment the quantity of sugar, so do alcoholic liquids. Yeast has been administered, but with no good effect. Attempts have also been made to facilitate the oxidation of the sugar by the inhalation of oxygen, of chlorine, and of ozone, but without success.

The author investigated the point, as to whether diabetic patients may be allowed to drink as much as their thirst prompts them, or whether it is better to cut off a portion. He found that water, taken in large quantity, certainly augments the quantity of urine and of sugar; that a slight diminution produces no effect; that privation from liquids produces a prompt diminution in the amount of sugar; but that the effect of privation is quite temporary, for as soon as the patient has fully quenched his thirst, he passes in the urine large quantities of sugar.

Consequently, Dr. Griesinger concludes that alkaline remedies and an animal diet are the only means at the disposal of the physician in the treatment of this intractable disorder.—*Gaz. Méd. de Paris*, from *Archiv. für Phys. Heilk.*

14. *Enemata of Sulphuric Ether for Ascarides*. By T. OGIER WARD, M. D.—Having read in one of the periodicals that injections of sulphuric ether had been of great service in ascarides, I determined to recommend its use to a patient who had long been troubled with thread-worms. It was used as directed; viz., in a dose of fifteen drops in one ounce of water, which was retained in the rectum, the patient going to bed immediately afterwards. The result was, that the patient, a lady, aged about 36, was not annoyed again for above a fortnight, and then only very slightly; and a repetition of the enema kept her free for three weeks longer; so that she flattered herself she had met with something like a cure for this troublesome complaint; and I also entertained a similar idea, having found the treatment successful in another case of ascarides in the adult. This patient, like the other, found the ether most effectual at first, but it is now quite

useless; and, with this feeling, I thought it a subject of sufficient importance to bring under the notice of the late meeting. Since that time, however, I find the thread-worms have returned, though not in such numbers as formerly; but it is a curious fact that the ether seems now to have lost its effect in this case, the lady being compelled to use it every night.

As this patient complained that she tasted the ether in a few minutes after the injection, I tried its effects upon myself one night just before bedtime. In three minutes by my watch, I perceived a strong taste of ether; and, on going to bed, my wife asked if I were unwell, and had been taking ether!

Another effect of the ether injection is, that it causes the patient to sleep very heavily, which property may be turned to good account in cases of sleeplessness in persons who cannot bear opiates. From the history and treatment of many cases, I am convinced that the common notion, that the *habitat* of the oxyuris is in the rectum, is quite erroneous. A single injection of quassia, salt, or even cold water, will completely empty the rectum of all its denizens, so that a repetition will not bring away a single individual; and yet the next night they will be as numerous as ever. Indeed, the fact that persons liable to worms are most troubled *after* the bowels have acted, may be taken as a proof that they are carried down into the rectum together with the feces; which, however, may not contain a single specimen. I am, therefore, disposed to believe that the thread-worm resides in the sigmoid flexure, or in the cells of the colon; and I am supported in this view by having often found that a repetition of an injection will bring away the ova without a single worm. If my idea be correct, our treatment should not be directed to removing them from the rectum, but to destroying them in their dwelling-places by aloes and other bitter substances mixed with the food of the patient.

I may add, as an instance of apparent communication of worms from one person to another, that the husband of one of the ladies has been more or less troubled with the thread-worms ever since his marriage, seventeen or eighteen years ago. He has used the ether once, with the effect of relieving himself for some weeks from the ascariides; and though they have returned, yet they have given him so little annoyance that he has not cared to repeat the ether injection, as he dislikes its smell and taste.—*British Med. Jour.*, Oct. 6, 1860.

15. *Action of Hydrochloric Acid upon Phthisis.*—Dr. R. P. Corron presents a very instructive report (*Med. Times and Gazette*, Nov. 17, 1860) on the effect of hydrochloric acid upon twenty-five in-patients of the Consumption Hospital.

"Of the twenty-five patients, seventeen were males and eight females. Their respective ages varied from sixteen to forty years. Ten were in the first stage, four were in the second stage, and eleven in the third stage of the disease. In twelve instances the mineral acid was given alone; in thirteen cases it was combined, during part of the time, with cod-liver oil. The dose of the acid varied from ten to fifteen minims of the dilute hydrochloric acid of the Pharmacopœia, mixed with peppermint-water, and administered three times a day. In three cases it was tried for only a fortnight, but in all the rest it was continued for periods varying from four to thirteen weeks.

"Of the twenty-five patients, eleven *greatly improved*, six *slightly improved*, and eight received *no benefit*. Of the *greatly improved* cases, seven were in the first, two were in the second, and two in the third stage. Of the *slightly improved* patients, one was in the first, one in the second, and four in the third stage. Of those who received *no benefit*, two were in the first, one in the second, and five in the third stage.

"Sixteen patients gained in weight, eight lost weight, and in one there was no alteration. The changes in weight were particularly noticed in reference to the cod-liver oil. In six cases, although no oil was taken, there was a great increase of weight (an average of six pounds to each patient); but in all the rest, who either did not or could not take the oil, there was more or less loss of weight. Without reference to the oil, however, those *greatly improved* were found to have increased in weight, although such increase bore no direct proportion to the amount of improvement, some who had gained the least having been quite as much benefited as any of the rest.